3/5/93 GT

Gay group defends Colorado meeting

Spokesman: Event to fight initiatives

By **Louis Aguilar**
Gazette Telegraph

A national gay and lesbian group actively promoting the boycott of Colorado is co-sponsoring a convention in Denver next weekend, an action it doesn't find contradictory.

Members of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force will be among the 200 people expected to meet to devise ways to fight the spread of Amendment 2-type initiatives in other states. The controversial amendment, which bans laws protecting homosexuals from discrimination based on their sexual orientation, has provoked outrage among some and sparked a nationwide boycott that has hit the state economically.

Robert Bray, spokesman for the Washington, D.C-based task force, said while his group endorses a boycott of tourism, business and conventions in this state, it also supports travel to Colorado as long as it is for the purpose of organizing against Amendment 2.

That doesn't wash with Boycott Colorado, the group that originally called for the punitive action against the state.

"It's a nasty little loophole," vice president Jan Williams said of the task force's decision to exempt itself from the boycott. "It's necessary to take the hard line and not bring money into this state. Exemptions give way to further loopholes."

Williams added, however, he does see a distinction between the meeting next week and other conventions. "They're coming to fight," he said.

Several of those who plan to attend the convention said that given their support of the boycott, they plan to spend their money carefully while in Colorado.

"There's not going to be a lot of shopping, I can tell you that," Bray said. "We're going specifically to fight Amendment 2 and organize against it in other states."

The hotel hosting the March 13-14 meeting can attest that attendees are keeping their wallets in their pockets: An official at the Executive Tower Inn, which donated facilities to the activists, say few of them have actually booked rooms.

Also sponsoring the meeting is Equality Colorado in Denver and Ground Zero, based in Colorado Springs. Ground Zero supports the boycott, but Equality Colorado has taken a neutral stance.

At least seven states have groups working on statewide measures simi-

See **MEETING**/B5

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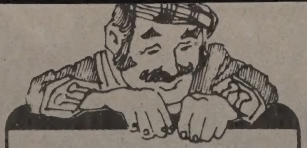

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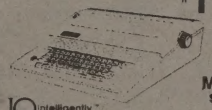

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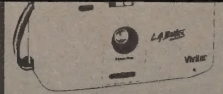

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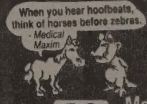

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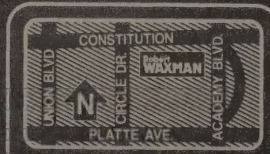

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